



Crosby Post

DECEMBER 1963

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THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY
founded March 1950

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I.E. for the March issue all material must reach us by February 1st.

Each issue of Crosby Post is now a strictly limited edition for paid up members only, it is therefore imperative that members due for renewal should renew before the 'material deadline' for the next issue,. On that date we commence printing the next issue. Members renewing after the material deadline for the next Post, will not receive that issue and their membership will be dated to commence with the next published edition. We hope therefore that you will assist us in our plans to streamline the clubs administration and also comply with our requests as above - we don't want you to miss an edition of the Post, but with issues stretching now to nearly 40 pages, we just cannot afford to print copies in the hope that a member who has 'nt renewed 'may' renew.

An X here signifies your renewal is now due; ; Please forward your renewal direct to JACK MANNERS making your remittance payable to The British Crosby Society.

Annual fee; British Isles 10/-; Overseas Two Dollars (14/-)

Typewriter fund An appeal from Frank Murphy

In a further effort to give our club members the very best there is possible we have now purchased a brand new Olympia portable typewriter at a cost of nearly £30. We feel you will endorse this action and when you read the pages of this issue I think you will agree that we have made a right decision, can we then send you this further request for donations to help pay off this contract. I will personally acknowledge your assistance in this direction and a list of subscribers will appear in the next Crosby Post..many thanks

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EDITORIAL

December 3rd, 1963

Looking through the Christmas "Post" and pausing here and there to make notes on which to comment on here, I found myself with just about enough to fill a couple of pages more - I could'nt do this to you so I scrapped my notes pronto, and will make sufficient mention as is possible and firstly my sincere thanks to the contributors listed above - its a great pleasure to serve under such great people and editing your wonderful pieces is a real pleasure to me - echoing the thoughts that are with us this happy time prompts me to say I hope we shall have the pleasure of co-operating through many more happy years.

From Australia came great letters from Syd Smyth and Keith Hyde, kind words of praise for the Post from so far away, rest assured great guy's your appreciation is appreciated, long may we deserve it.

Sorry we were'nt able to bring you greetings from our Hon Vice President this time Larry must have got snowed under, but we no he'd want to be included in Bing's fine greetings on page 4.

Marring the festive season somewhat is the sad news of Michael Holliday and the President of the United States, President Kennedy, now today comes the news of the passing of Mr Grant Stockdale whom members will recall was on hand to greet Bing when he visited Ireland in 1961 - Mr Stockdale, former US Ambassador to Ireland appeared on many of the photos issued by the club to commemorate that memorable occasion, the event of which was captured so wonderfully by our good friend George O' Reilly.

So now as the coming Holy Season approaches, Alma and our little ones, Angela, Michael, and Janet join with me in an expression of Christmas cheer. We all hope you will all have as wonderful a happy and holy Christmas as we plan to have, and the best of everything for 1964,.

As ever

Bing-cerely

Frank

4 BING signs in with his usual much appreciate Christmas greetings

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD - DECEMBER 1963

Dear Frank;

Christmas has rolled around very rapidly this year - seems only a short time since we last sent our greetings to you.

It should be a happier Christmas all round, and I wish you all the best of it.

Happier, because there is so much evidence we are gradually getting over the war jitters. Younger people are looking toward better things - in music, art, education and improvement generally.

This should bring an upswing toward better morals.

So, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" - and ladies!

Sincerely

Signed BING

BC:vs

Bing has just purchased a new \$62,500 home in San Francisco and as is usual with the things Bing does, it caused big headlines all over the world - here's a Stateside report from our gal PAT SULLIVAN

Society Page - San Francisco Chronicle - November 15th 1963
BING'S IMPACT ON ROBIN ROAD

The house are all spacious, set in several acres of land; It's against the rules to have less than two acres. There are plenty of swimming pools, a tennis court or two and lots of dogs - That's the kind of neighborhood the Bing Crosby's and their three children will move into if the court approves their purchase of the Hillsborough estate of the late Mrs Douglas Alexander.

Kathy Crosby will get her wish that her three young children can walk to school - The W.H. Crocker Grammar School is less than five minutes away.

The house is in the Carolands section of Hillsborough, one of the most secluded and exclusive parts of this posh peninsula community. Friends think it unlikely the Crosby's will add a swimming pool to the beautiful garden which is full of fine old oaks. The clubs (Burlingame County Club) pool is convenient, and several of the neighbors have pools.

The news that the Crosby's are moving to Hillsborough has already had a tremendous effect on curving little Robin road.

"Before, if 20 cars were on Robin road, it was a traffic jam" said one resident. There has been a steady stream of sightseers since last weekend when the news first broke. Since the house is not visible from the street, many turn into the driveway to gawk at the English style house.

The flurry of excitement is reminiscent of the time the Charles Blacks (Shirley Temple) moved to Atherton several years ago. Like the Crosby's they wanted to bring up their children in a non-showbusiness atmosphere. They lived as quietly as possible, with an unlisted phone and other safeguards and eventually the hubbub subsided. Robin road must still endure the moving in of the Crosby's and it will take a little while after that before the street will go back to being so quiet "that not even airplanes go overhead" as one resident said.

*"CROZ-TALK" presented by JACK MANNERS *
 * This time Jack includes the result of *
 * the successful raffle held in the last *
 * issue and discusses the absence of Bing *
 * from the request shows on radio..... *
 * ===== *

Hello again, I cannot tell how Frank has fared but since the last issue of Post I have recieved a record number of letters. This easily surpasses any other 'in between' period and this of course is a healthy sign. I am afraid my replies to some letters have been rather brief as I usually aim to give a fairly reasonable reply to any queries etc. But when needs must, well you know the old saying.

Now to get down to business and first, the vexed question of club badges. These I am afraid are out. Only 25 members were interested and you must agree it would be a dead loss to buy a minimum of 100 which is the number we would have had to buy to make a go of it. Sorry, but thanks to you all who wrote in.

Here is the result of the last club raffle;-

1st prize a 10" Bing album goes to Mrs I Miroli of Scotland

2nd prize a 10/- record token goes to Mrs Kathleen Golder of London

3rd prize of 10 photos of Bing goes to Mr John Fleming of London.

The raffle raised 34/- and our thanks for your appreciated support.

Meanwhile John will you select the 10 photos of your choice and let Bill know.

Bing and Kathryn's present was a bit of a problem and while I think of it thanks members for your suggestions, but after a jingle round the shops I bought a novel gift, it was a GOLF BAG WHISKEY DECANTER which makes a musical sound when the bottle is lifted out. Very well designed and strongly made, I think it will appeal to Bing. This time we bought a seperate gift for Kathryn, a first class MAKE UP SET IN BLUE AND GOLD. After paying for these I had 5/- left which will go to club funds, thanks to all of you for a fine response.

Now to get round to the turntable Bing's recent activities in and around the recording studios, filmmaking and TV plans are ably dealt with by Les, Pat and Frank; but what of the voice' that has been heard by more people the world over than any other - is it to become a ghost of the past - this will I am afraid become a fact if the present trend of disc jockeys and compare's continue on their merry way.

Many great Crosby numbers are being played, admittedly. But sad to say not by the originator. Frank Sinatra has recorded recently quite a few so called oldies. Frank Ifield and Andy Williams are also following this trend. We can of course take this as a compliment to Bing, but to us and I imagine to many more it's just not the same and at the very least the disc jockeys and other sponsering musical programmes could or should pay Bing the compliment beforehand of his association with a particular song.

This is another pet grumble of mine and I don't think I have ever heard a reference to Bing on this score. I suppose there have been on rare occasions but not to my knowledge.

Al Jolson, Gracie Fields, Fats Waller, Doris Day, Ella... a good song by any of these remade by a modern singer or group will usually get them a credit mention. But Bing never, or as I said rarely.

I rather think Bing is taken too much for granted which of course is nice, but on this occasion I wish it were not so, as to me this omission implies a lack of consideration for the greatest of all popular singers so far this century. And now we know Bing is really going to town in the recording studios with more fare than we have had in a long time, I only hope the

Jack continues on page 6

The orchestra was conducted by Nelson Riddle who also made the arrangements, and I think he's done some outstanding work in this date.

I did four songs for a big album that Reprise is putting out, involving eighteen artists and fifty six tunes from four big Broadway shows - "Guys and Dolls" "South Pacific" "Finian's Rainbow" and one other, the name of which I do not at this moment recall.

..BRIGHT BOYS of the turntable will take note that the 'master' is still around. I am certainly going to get on to the BBC "MORE BING OR ELSE" and hope too that you my friends will join me. Did you notice the report by the Daily Sketch reporter who wrote thus; "Now Andy Williams sings "White Christmas" on the CBS label. He has a fine voice but he shouldnt have done it. This is Crosby's song and the rest of them should leave it alone."....I say we could not agree more.

And now as this is a "White Christmas" issue. An old story, my favorite and I hope yours.

IRVING BERLIN, America's foremost composer of popular music will America on Nov. 1st for London to participate in the gala premiere activities for "WHITE CHRISTMAS" the lavish musical for Paramount. The composer will be accompanied by Mrs Berlin.

"WHITE CHRISTMAS" which stars, BING CROSBY: DANNY KAYE: ROSEMARY CLOONEY: and VERA ELLEN is not only the first film to be made in Vista Vision, but also the first film with original Berlin music for more than ten years. Berlin wrote ten songs for this spectacular subject in Technicolour. Bing and Danny are teamed for the first time in "White Christmas" and they were one day on a gigantic set representing a smalltown theatre putting on a white face minstrel act with Vera Ellen and Rosemary Clooney. It is an intricate song and dance routine which they rehearsed for weeks. But even so there was trouble when dance director Robert Alton finally called for cameras.

First of all the elevator that carried Vera Ellen above the huge chorus on stage did not work properly, then one small detail after another served to dissatisfy Alton. So when Bing, Danny and the girls went through part of the routine six times. Then they did a 'take' that everyone thought perfect. Bing took off his shoes and rubbed his aching feet - Danny wiped the sweat from his brow - this was hard physical work as well as being mentally exacting. They looked forward to a few minutes rest before going on to the next scene, but their hopes were shattered by Alton "got to do it again" "Nothing wrong with the performance that last shot, but there was a tiny hair on the camera lens" "So what's wrong with a tiny hair on the camera lens" ? asked Kaye, "Nothing" replies Alton "nothing at all" "except when its blown up a large screen that tiny hair will look as if you are dancing with a Boe-constrictor in your teeth" Bing took it in his stride patting the top of his scalp "Why, oh why couldnt that hair have been up here where I could really use it"? he grinned.....

Finally here is the list of the contributors to the present fund;

Joe Hall 10/-; Elsie Kennedy 10/- Jack and Betty Hale 10/-; Vic Coxon 10/-; Jack and Kit Manners 20/-; John Combs 10/-; Brenda Miles 10/-; Joan Walton 10/-; Les Gaylor 10/-; Bob and Vera Roberts 11/-; Harold Hanke 8/-; Ian Arnott 7/6; Michael Crampton 5/-; Ted Burnell 5/-; Arnold Dix 5/-; Frank and Alma Murphy 20/-; Lil Williams 5/-; Alf Hillyer 2/6; Mary Hughes 5/-; Frank Hatwell 5/-; Madge Holmes 3/-; Frank Grant 4/-; Alma Johnson 2/6

And that's it for this time friends;- HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A LUCKY NEW YEAR
cheerio - Jack

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BING writes a personal letter to LES GAYLOR

BING CROSBY

HOLLYWOOD

OCTOBER 16, 1963

Dear Leslie;

I just can't remember how much I told you about recording plans, so probably some of the news I'm giving you now will be repetitious, but I'll send it along anyhow.

I'm just finishing an Hawaiian album for Reprise, including some fine old Hawaiian standards like "Old Plantation" "Farewell my Jane" "Lovely Hula Hands" "Frangipant Blossom" and others of similar stamp.

The orchestra was conducted by Nelson Riddle who also made the arrangements, and I think he's done some outstanding work in this date.

I did four songs for a big album that Reprise is putting out, involving eighteen artists and fifty six tunes from four big Broadway shows - "Guys and Dolls" "South Pacific" "Finian's Rainbow" and one other, the name of which I do not at this moment recall.

I have a Country and Western album to do for Capitol. I have picked the songs they are things like "A Little Bittie Tear" "Bouquest of Roses" "Four Walls" "Heartaches by the Number", etc.

Am also to do an album called "Around the World with a Dixieland Beat" for Capitol. This is all prepared but I don't know just when the time will be available to tape it.

I'm reharsing now on a picture with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. Should be finished around the 1st of the year.

So much for my activities so far as recording is concerned. Hope this finds you and all the other friends of mine in the club in good form -

Yours sincerely,

signed;-

BING

BC:Im

Here's a useful spot of news for all club members on the lookout for some really good recording tape - this carries the recom of your humble editor;-

GLOBAL PRODUCTS 13, STANLEY STR ROTHWELL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE offer you the famous Canadian BEL-CLEER recording tape at the following fabulous prices;

5" 600' - 12/6d

5" 900 - 15/-

5 1/2" 1200 - 18/6

7" 1200 - 18/6

7" 1800 - 25/-

Postage 1/- per reel.
3 or more post free

*** when writing to Global
*** Products ask for a free
*** leaflet on the speedy
*** Global Bulk Tape Eraser

It was our pleasure recently to co-operate with our Whitley Bay pal Don Woolland on a feature for The Viewer journal of Tyne Tees Television - result being a fine article on Bing in the issue of November 2nd - congrats Don and thanks from the Northern group fro lighting up the Viewer.....

Ted Laker presents another in his popular series;- THE
MAGIC
VOICE
=====
 "RIDING HIGH" (A film cameo)

When Bing worked on this picture with Frank Capra directing in 1950, the result was a real piece of vintage Crosby. Not so much an overloaded song spectacular, but a neat humorous story with the music fitting easily into the flow of events. The hand picked supporting cast included such names as, - CHARLES BICKFORD; WILLIAM DEMAREST and a surprise cameo by the late OLIVER HARDY as an over enthusiastic betting man, all added to the films enjoyment.

The leading lady was COLEEN GRAY and there is a wonderful scene where Bing in company with Miss Gray and coloured star CLARENCE MUSE do a lively routine in a leaky old barn, to the films hit song "SUNSHINE CAKE". Other songs are built more around the horse racing scenes such as "THE HORSE TOLD ME" and "THE CAMPTOWN RACES". The first named is sung at a somewhat rowdy party and the latter is warbled with childrens voices joining in the chorus on the way to the big race meeting.

Bing also gives a fine rendition of the famous WHIFFENPOOF SONG" in this film. So with Crosby in fine voice, some high class comedy antics, and some pretty good musical items. I think this film is long overdue for re-issue and with cinemas in London and elsewhere experimenting with revivals of the better type films of a few years back. maybe the possibility of a season of Crosby successes will be more than a remote possibility

Anyway all that remains now is to iwsh all the hard working club officers and the club members all the very best this festive season.....-

Cheerio - Ted Laker.

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BING SAYS "REAL FINE" (and so do I) by Fred Reynolds

On behalf of my co-authors, Dæk Parkes, Bob Roberts and Ralph Harding and myself I sent a copy of the discography signed by us all to Bing. I told him that for many months we had worked on this, that our wives had been very patient with us and that after a brief respite during which we would re-introduce ourselves to our respective families we hoped to continue with the Decca period.

A quick reply came from Bing in which he said,

"You and your co-authors have done a real fine job on the record book and we appreciate it. Please thank the fellows and give your wives a squeeze for me"

It is most gratifying for us to know our work is so appreciated. I only hope that the people who buy it know what they are getting for 5/- and any member who does'nt buy it should join the "Beatles" fan club (please Fred- not here-frank) Putting such macabre thoughts aside, however, I invite you all to study Bing words for I contend this gives me a clear personal instruction to act as proxy for him in rendering the friendly gesture to the femmes. I know he says "your wives" and I hav'nt (really) got four but as he wrote the letter to me I claim the benefit of any doubt, so stand back Bob, Derek and Ralph and line up girls. There is more to being a Crosby man than any of you ever dreamed - real fine, Bing, real fine..... Fred Reynolds ...

HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING THE NEW LOOK CROSBY POST - YOUR EDITOR WOULD APPRECIATE
 YOUR VALUED COMMENTS -

"A brief appearance" refers to myself, for it seems sometime since I last contributed to Crosby Post - in fact, with the Buddy Cole articles I think. About Buddy, he was taken ill earlier in the year with a heart attack, which explains the silence from him, the last I heard he was still taking it easy, but on the way to recovery. Touring with Phil Harris and Rosemary Clooney plus doing Bing's Pebble Beach Golf Tournament Show, proved to be rather too much for Buddy, and he collapsed while working on his mighty Wurlitzer organ one night. I'm sure you will all join in wishing him a speedy recovery and better health in the future.

In recent months I have been collecting a few magazine photos of Bing, which I have passed to Frank for possible use in Crosby Post. One thing which struck me, and maybe it's a twist of my imagination, - some of the early photos taken about the 1930 period seem to show Bing far more like he looks today, than many that come from the middle 30's to the 1956 period, perhaps it is because Bing was thinner in his young days, after which he put on weight until today when he has lost some of his weight again. Not that it matters much, it's just a thing that struck me.

Some years ago I contributed my 'top ten' Bing songs to Crosby Post, the current series seems to be creating a lot of interest, and although I would have liked to have contributed again, I feel my original selection still stands, however I'll give you TEN with a little twist, Ten favourites which I first heard on L.P. records.

From the "High Society" L.P. "Well did you Evah" - it was good to hear Bing and Frank Sinatra together. (Incidentally we shall be hearing more of them together now that Bing has joined Reprise. This is not a bad thing, Frank may not be a favourite singer in Crosby circles, but at least he is a singer who remains popular today, when singing hardly enters into many of the records which enter the popularity charts on supposed vocal merits) So let's welcome Sinatra into the fold, it will do good for him and our Bing.

"Along the way to Waikiki" from the "Bing with a beat" L.P. such wonderful backing from the Bob Scobey Band, and such a vintage performance from Bing, actually it's a great L.P. throughout for me.

"Prisoner of Love" from "Songs I wish I had sung" a beautiful tribute from Bing to the memory of the late Russ Columbo.

"On the Alamo" from "New Tricks" a rich relaxed Mr Crosby in voice with superb backing from Buddy Cole.

"On the road to Manalaya" from "Join Bing and sing Along"
 "My shawl" and "Cuban lovesong" from "El Senor Bing"

"Rocky Mountain Moon" from "Bing and Satchmo" An all time great performance with Bing in top form, with superb trumpet and vocal from Louis Armstrong. Louis and Bing always seem to be at their best together, which is not surprising, they have been friends since long before Bing was even anybody in the Whiteman band. The whole L.P. was such a thrill.

"Say one for me" from "Say one for Me" A lovely song from what to me was a great film.

Stan continues on page 10

10 Stan continues his "BRIEF APPEARANCE

"Count your Blessings" from "White Christmas" this seems to be an almost forgotten Bing song, but I love it.

Buckskin Joe" from "How the West was Won". Bing in great voice, I felt that several of the Bing number from this album, issued as singles would have made the grade.

Looking back I see that I have cheated and included 11 songs. I could go on, however, Frank needs the space for more important articles I imagine.

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL

- STAN

+++++

COMEDY SPOT - - - - - from the files of Frank "belt of bushmill" Murphy

This month we turn the spotlight on to that highly dis-respected personal pal of ours Ken Mc Manus. Members will recall that in the June issue of Crosby Post Ken organised a competition asking members to guess which record company he worked for, Ken offered the only record his company had ~~ever~~ issued of Bing as the prize for the one who guessed his murky whereabouts.

Kenny kept in touch with me whilst he waded through the pile of both post-cards that arrived and the winning one from our London 'booster' Kathy Golder and our congrats to Kathy on winning the L.P. of PEPE from Ken - yes of course you're way ahead of me now, Ken works for Pyc Records - however that's not the end of the story for the other card was a real gem which read as follows:-

MANY YEARS AGO "ARIEL IS USED ONE BING CROSBIE RECORD
I THINK YOU WORKED FOR THIS COMPANY MANY YEARS AGO
AND ARE NOW PENSIONED OFF. THE RECORD IS " SUSIANNA"

SINCERELY " A COLLECTOR"

P.S. YOU MUST BE VERY VERY OLDE NOW

And a guilty post mark was from Rickmansworth, Herts the home of one BOB ROBERTS a leading Society leg-puller - and Ken guessed this and without further ado he proceeded to seek his vengeance on the guilty Mr BR and after about a week of numerous parcels of photos, records etc of todays leading? pop stars? Bob surrendered and owned up well I expect you're laughing with me now and you can imagine what a lot of fun we've had over this affair.

Incidentally, Ken loves apple pie and his address is 6 Beech grove, New Malden, Surrey..... my advance apologies Ken if you getsnowed under with apple pie, but don't blame me.....

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A few back number copies of Crosby Post are available at 3/6 each post paid, these include all the past years issues - mail your requests direct to "Outside Projects" c/o Bill Hall whilst writing ask Bill for the current list of exclusive photos from the clubs Photo Section - there's a wonderful selection of great photos available

II Bob Roberts returns, this time in more serious mood as he presents this months ALTERNATIVE TAKES.....

A very Merry Christmas to everyone.....sorry I missed the last issue but what with moving (my new address is 56 Thorold Road, Chathan, Kent) and getting the V-Disc stencils cut for Frank, I just could'nt make it. I have certainly appreciated the letters and post-cards that I have recieved from fellow club members who have enjoyed my articles...and a special word of thanks to Bill Coen and Syd Smyth for their kind comments forwarded on to me from Frank.

I have chosen "SILENT NIGHT" Bing's all time greatest selling disc for this special Christmas issue and I trust that the following information regarding the alternative takes will be of interest to readers.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Matrix DLA 26I

Recorded Nov 13th 1935

Take "A" Issued on Decca (USA) 62I

Note that in the second line Bing sings.."All is calm and all is
Bright.."

Take "B" issued on Brunswick (England) 02054

Note that in the second line Bing sings.."All is calm, all is bright"

The "A" take has also been issued on Decca Australia Y 5080;

The "A" and "B" take have been issued on Decca England BM 02054 for continental distribution.

The "A" take was also issued on Brunswick (England) 02054;

This recording was also issued on Brunswick South Africa 1847 and Decca South Africa FM500I altho I have no details of the takes actually used on these two discs. Any information from fellow collectors would be appreciated.

-----O-----

One or two of the newer club members have written to say that they do not fully understand the meaning of "takes". For their benefit may I explain briefly that at most recording sessions two, three, or even more attempts are made of the same song. These different attempts are numbered or lettered and are known as "takes" The reason for more than one take is threefold;- (i) the possibility of a poor technical recording; (ii) a slight 'fluff' on the part of the orchestra or the artist; and (iii) the need or desire to try a different arrangement in order to find out which is more suitable for release. It is usual, of course, to press and release the best take. In the case of Bing, the first take is usually the best and considering Bing fantastic recording career, the number of second or third takes that have been issued is very small. To the average record buying public, alternative takes mean very little but to the serious collectors of Crosbyana they mean a great deal. Today, most recording sessions are taped and not mastered direct to wax. With tape it is possible to cut and splice and it is therefore very difficult to discover just what take has been used and quite often excerpts from two, three or more takes are blended together to make the final version for issue to the public. Every variation from the master tape is noted and numbered and altho it is not a true take it is often referred to as the 'take' Of course there is a lot more to it than this, but I hope this short article will throw some light on the subject and that someone more qualified than me might even write a real good article about "takes" for a future issue of "CROSBY POST"

Until the next issue....."Happy listening" BOB

"AMERICAN NEWSLETTER" an on-the-spot report of all the newsy Stateside going's on Crosby-wise and compiled from many leading American papers by our on-the-spot gal PAT SULLIVAN.....

Dear Frank,

October 28th

Here it is almost the end of the year already and I've had an especially interesting year in my new surroundings. Am looking forward to a trip home to Milwaukee for the holidays and then a return to California. I like the San Francisco Bay area immensley and find it very exciting to think the Crosby's have chosen this area to live too. According to reports they will move to Northern California after the first of the year. Bing is due to begin work soon on his movie with Frank Sinatra and group. Their Christmas record should be out in the shops soon. Following are the recent clippings on the clan Crosby. My best regards to all the members for a very happy holiday season. Pat.

LOUELLA PARSONS - October 17, 1963
BING'S CAREER ON TV SHOW

Takes me back to the days when Bing Crosby was my guest on all my Christmas shows when I was on radio hearing that Bing will star for David L Walpen in a special half hour TV programme on NBC Dec 23. Wonder what it is about Bing that reminds people of Christmas? Anyway, Bing never failed me and showed up each Christmastime to sing "White Christmas" and "Silent Night" The Walpen programme will be produced by Jack Haley jr and will show clips of Bing when he was starting out as one of the Rhythm Boys, follow him through his wonderful career and Bing is even permitting shots at home with his present family, Kathy and their children. The title? "THE ONE AND ONLY BING" and there is just one.

HEDDA HOPPER - September 17, 1963

Larry Crosby tells me that Bing considers Al Carter, who plays drums with an orchestra in the Chicago area, his top fan. Al loves Bing's recording of "The Old Sante Fe Trail" so much that this summer he travelled over the 960 miles of trail from Franklin Mo, to Sante Fe, New Mexico, logging it with Government maps. Al stopped at around 100 towns for interviews with disc jockeys and to play Bing's song.

CROSBY BOYS FINALLY GROW UP - by VERNON SCOTT October 13, 1963

The four golden Crosby boys, heirs to riches and public scrutiny, have crash landed from premature stardom to the hard reality of the world. The name Bing Crosby is no longer a magic wand for them. Their private lives have been devastated by divorce, three out of four and professionally they have plummeted to the bottom of the show business ladder. Even the term Crosby boys is a misnomer, they are men now. Gary is 30, the twins Dennis and Phillip 29 and Lindsay is 25.

How goes it with Bing's first family now, the sons of his first marriage to Dixie Lee Crosby - What wrecked their promising dream of stardom as a singing group? How has it affected them individually? and how have they fitted the pieces of their lives together again? The Crosby's, singly or as a group belie their reputation for arrogance, flippancy and wildness. If they were swingers five years ago, they have changed. Each is well spoken, well mannered and yes, subdued. The burden of their famous name, which each admits now was more of a handicap than asset has tempered their personalities and wrenched their careers in different ways. Gary is the only

one who is still happily married. After three years he says "Barbara and I are sailing along smoothly, we're very happy and plan to stay that way" Once the ringleader of the family singing group, Gary broke away from his brothers shortly before his marriage and struck out on his own as a single. Overweight and illness forced him to retire temporarily from the show business scene and it was reported that he and his brothers had experienced a rift which only recently has been patched up.

In the past year Gary lost weight resumed his singing career and this season is in the new "Bill Dana" television series.

"I don't see much of Phil and Linny anymore" says Gary "But Dennis and I get together every so often"

"I'm trying to negotiate a recording contract now and try to work in some movies, I've had my share of 'off seasons' and now maybe things will be looking up for me"

Gary and Barbara live in the San Fernando Valley with Barbara's 8 year old son Steve, by a previous marriage whom Gary has adopted.

Dennis, who made headlines in a paternity suit, is balding, shy and hopeful that he can salvage his marriage. "I feel sure Pat and I will get together again" he says. Dennis works in a production capacity for Bing Crosby Productions at Desilu Studios and plans some day to produce a television series for his fathers company. He has no desire to return to performing.

"I guess I was 'nt cut out to be an entertainer" he admitted "I was always painfully self concious out there in the spotlight with my brothers, and I certainly could 'nt go on stage without them"

Dennis keeps in close contact with his twin, Philip who is the tallest, most confident of the brothers. Phil is under contract to Frank Sinatra's Reprise record co and recently cut two songs, one of them a rock n' roll version of his fathers famed "WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT" and a countryfied version of "Little by Little" "We had four good years as a singing group, first the quartet and then the trio - so I can't complain" Philip said "Now I hope to keep going as a single"

Philip and his wife Sandra Drummond went to the divorce courts in June of this year. They are the parents of Dixie Lee, 4, and Brian Patrick 3.

Lindsay the youngest of Bing's first family, has followed the course of his older twin brothers, he married a Las Vegas show girl (as they did) and has since been divorced. His wife Barbara went to the court last year. They have a son, David, 3.

Lindsay's health was a primary factor in the dissolution of the trio. He suffered a nervous breakdown in October 1962 and was hospitalized. It has taken him a year to regain his health and to slow down the fast paced life he led after he and Barbara seperated. Linny, as they call him, lives in Palm Desert, California, at the home of a close family friend, Pepe Pepito, near his fathers house in the Palm Springs area. This month Lindsay and Pepito will open an Italian delicatessen in the desert community.

Bing's sons are on friendly terms with their father, but do not see much of him. Papa Crosby still is busy with his own career.

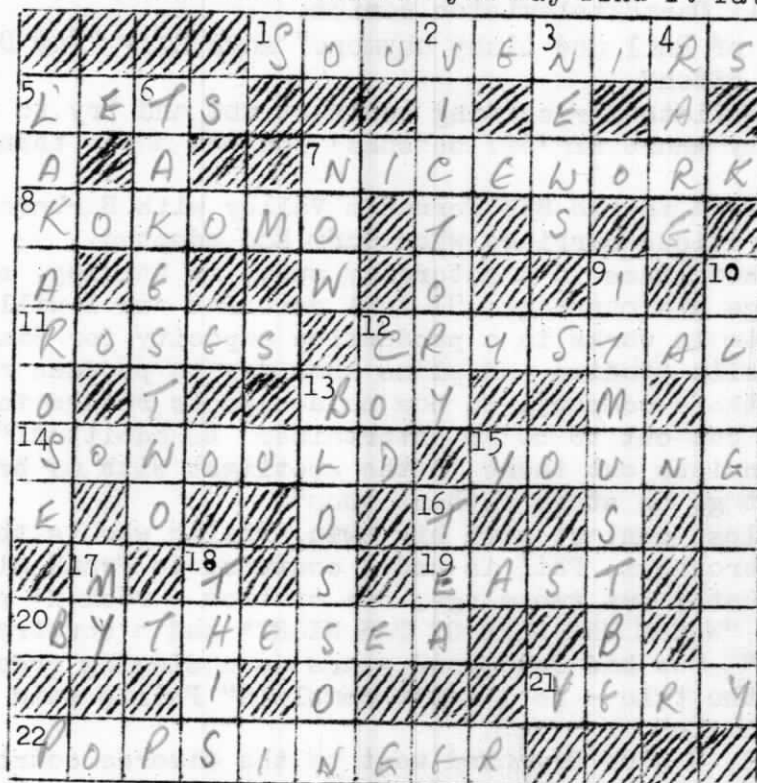
Financially none need worry, each boy recieved 50,000 Dollars in 1942 from their parents to set up trust funds. Their mothers estate provided for a quarter of a million dollars.

Since leaving the family nest there have been family differences, but aside from their marital difficulties the Crosby's have escaped headlines for more than a year now. They have matured and turned their attention to building their lives over from the beginning - not as Crosby boys, but as Gary Crosby, Dennis Crosby, Philip Crosby and Lindsay Crosby, and those who know best are happy to say that each of Bing's four sons is doing a workmanslike job of rebuilding

----- THE END -----

PUZZLE CORNER

Enjoy doing a Cross-Word puzzle? Got a few quiet minutes to spare? Then have a go at trying to solve this one specially prepared and composed by Ralph Harding. It's not up to the "TIMES" standard but you may find it rather tricky!



ACROSS

DOWN

1. Nothing left among these sings Bing
5. Try again for the first word
7. If you get it, tell me! (2 words)
8. It's Indiana, not on my mind
11. Goes well with red breasts
12. If you see through this you're on the Ball with Mitzi
13. Chattanooga's shining product
14. First two words Bing made with Russ
15. Describes lovers greeted by Bing
19. Which side of Heaven?
20. Position of Mission (3 words)
21. Thought makes Bing forget
22. Bing was one once - ask Paul (2 words)
2. Special sort of polka
3. None of this could be good
4. Label me lucky and I'm this
5. Mighty describes un-named fella (3 words)
6. Make a bargain? What's needed?
7. When it can be told by Berlin
9. Verily the truth with Gus (3 words)
10. Bing sez he will Sam (3 words)
12. A certain Cape ...sounds fishy
13. Fruity coloured vegetation
16. Two for this suits Bing & Connee
17. Whose Buddy?
18. Which dream failed to make it?

Send your solutions to Frank Murphy. Ralph S. Harding will send a guinea (or five early Bing Brunswick records whichever is preferred) to the first correct solution opened or to the solution nearest to correct. The solution will be published in the next CROSBY POST. Don't worry if you can't complete the puzzle, I made it rather tough but have a go at it anyway.

From Harold Hanke, 26 Twydale Ave, Tividale, Tipton, Staffs.

"I'm happy because of the grand news that Bing is getting down to the job of making more records. That's the sort of news I like to hear. Maybe we owe Frank Sinatra a vote of thanks for getting 'old lazybones' in out of the sun.

It's surprising how the news brought new life to the magazine - all of a sudden there's so much going on.

Thanks for a grand Crosby Post, it was a real tonic"

From Frank Hatwell, 240 Gilcott Road, Birmingham 16

I found the October issue of the Post particularly interesting, what with lengthy letter from Bing and also his tape message, and also the news of the re-appearance of "Tape Crosby" Nice idea for us to put a personal message on "Tape Crosby" for Bing".

From Elsie Kennedy, 15, Lowestoft Road, Watford, Herts.

In the last issue of Post you asked for our 'pet hate' well I would say that any record, film or TV show with Bing's name on the label, and a very sparing amount of him in the performance. How very dissappointing that is"

From Henryk Cholinski, Gliwice, pl.Wolnosci 3/3, Poland.

"To give you a rough picture of Crosiana in this country I can tell you that this one track of a 10" L.P. Bing and Louis Armstrong singing "Gone Fishing" is the only Bing Crosby issue since the War. I am trying to dig something out regarding Crosby before the war but I am rather sure there were no records of Bing issued here before the year 1939.

As for Crosby movies here. I have seen them all many times as there were only two of them on our screens - The first one was the famous "HOLIDAY INN" this was in 1947 and the second one was some three years ago and it's title is "THE COUNTRY GIRL"

In the near future I will be more than happy to write a piece on my personal view of Bing for you to print in Crosby Post"

From Frank Grant, Crown Hotel, Strathaven, Scotland.

"I thoroughly enjoyed this months issue of the Post, it's my only contact that I have with the club and I certainly look forward to relieving it, have also just recieved a copy of Bing singing "Because" pressed on cardboard, it's a topper"

Mr D Reid, 147a Gainsborough Ave, Manor Park, London E12 writes
Please find renewals for both my son and myself enclosed.

Bing has been a milestone in my life and as I can match him for age I almost venture to suggest I have practically grown up with him. Fortunately my son is now taking up the lead and will keep it going.

It may interest you to know that in October 1961 I had the pleasure of talking to the great man himself on the "Hong Kong" set at Shepperton studios and I reminded him of "the notorious Colonel Steel" and Bing's reply was "Man you are certainly going back a way"

Off the record I managed to get a cine film of him and Bob Hope, came out quite well too"

"Christmas Mailbag" continued on page 16

THERE'S STILL TWO WEEKS TO CHRISTMAS AND STILL TIME TO WRITE IN FOR YOUR BING REQUEST ON RADIO - we suggest Bing movin carol "O HOLY NIGHT" from his new Warner Bros album, "I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS" WRITE FOR IT NOW

from Madge Holmes, 149 Wellington Str, Winson Green, Birmingham 18
I would be grateful if any member can help me find the following record. It is the recording from KISMET by Ann Blythe, Vic Damone and Howard Keel of THIS IS MY BELOVED/NIGHT OF MY NIGHTS. This record is one of the first 45's I ever had and now unfortunately it sounds like chips frying. It is on the MGM label and if any member has a copy to spare I would be glad to exchange it for a copy of Bing's E.P. "REMEMBER"

Eddie Rice, 647 Lanny Ave, La Puente, California, USA writes,.
"Yesterday (October 27) I attended the taping of Bing's next TV Special which will be shown Feb 15th. Had a wonderful time. Bing recognized me and spoke briefly and I got John Scott Trotter to introduce me to Rosemary Clooney. Also met Bill Morrow, Bing's producer. Bing looked wonderful and was in excellent voice. The show should be a smash"; Kathy Crosby, Rosie Clooney, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Peter Gennaro plus John Scott Trotters music' some cast eh?"

----- Mailbag will be back in March -----

MICHAEL	B	FRED
HOLLIDAY	Y	REYNOLDS

Every Bing enthusiast will have been saddened by the tragic news of the death of Michael Holliday whose own admiration for his idol was boundless. I recall that some months ago I was driving him to my home from "The Barn" a large popular restaurant on the outskirts of Birmingham where he was appearing and he told me that although he knew and had been advised that copying Crosby did him no good professionally his one ambition was to sound and be as much like Bing as he possibly could.
Testimony as to how well he achieved this can be borne out by all who say his act for of the hundreds of Crosby influenced singers none ever came so near the original. He not only emulated the style of the master so well but he could produce his tone so well and to an amazine degree. He once, for my private benefit, demonstrated this astonishingly well with an off the cuff version of "Quizas, quizas, quizas" He was very fond of Bing up-beat numbers, particularly "Some of these days" which he included, scat and all, in his stage act. His tribute to Bing performed on stage and television embraced mimicry of Crosby's singing and speaking voice which will never be surpassed.

A most modest person, Michael confided in me that he could'nt understand the success he had achieved when anyone could listen to Crosby and typically when he and his wife Margie travelled to Hollywood for the purpose of meeting Bing in 1959, he was too shy to call and it was left to Bing, on learning two days later that Michael was in town, to ring him at his hotel. When Michael picked up the phone and heard Bing's deep voice saying "Hiya Michael, this is Bing" he could scarcely believe it and on Bing invitation Mr and Mrs Holliday called at his home and even then Michael was so nervous that his wife had to ring for admittance. Needless to say Bing was a marvellous host and Michael showed me the coloured cinefilm taken with Bing. It ran for a few minutes and included some wonderful scenes of the two together and Michael was tremendously proud of it.

It is a little known fact that he first wanted to become a comedianand, although he would have denied it. he had a grand sense of humour. Not surprisingly however, his singing was more successful .

continued on page : 19

He was very shy in those early days and he had almost to be pushed into joining Eric Winstone's Band from which he later appeared on radio and TV and became a solo artist and many will recall his first television appearance when he sang "Eileen" so like the Crosby version. From then his professional success was limited only by the restrictions he himself imposed to enable him to enjoy a private family life. Although Michael didn't play golf he did share Bing's love of horses and owned a lovely Palomino which he showed to me on a cinefilm taken by his wife. There were some grand shots of Michael riding in the grounds of his Surrey home. Another great pleasure for him was to see the horses in Western films-to which he was addicted.

His enjoyment of simple pleasures, his modesty and sincerity endeared him to all who knew him. His success as an entertainer left him entirely without affection and his natural charm remained unimpaired. I am sure that everyone in the Crosby Society will join in offering deepest sympathy to his family
.....Fred Reynolds..

KEN MC MANUS presents "ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES"

Yes friends, this is the full title. Maybe if I called it "OSCAR" you will now recognize this rather long winded title - I only hope you won't find this article too long winded.

This particular Oscar is awarded to musical works of outstanding merit in the cinema. It was instituted in 1934 and the first winner of this gold plated statue was Con Conrad for his song "The Continental" and following is a near complete list of all the winners up to 1958. If anyone can recall any later winners I would be very pleased to hear from them.

1934	THE CONTINENTAL	(CONRAD:NAGIDSON)	FILM	"THE GAY DIVORCE"
1935	LULLABY OF BROADWAY	(WARREN:DUBIN)		"GOLD DIGGERS OF BROADWAY"
1936	WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT	(KERN:FIELDS)		"SWING TIME"
1937	SWEET LEILANI	(OWEN)		"WAIKIKI WEDDING"
1938	THANKS FOR THE MEMORY	(RAINER:ROBIN)		"BIG BROADCAST OF 1938"
1939	OVER THE RAINBOW	(ARLEN:HARBURG)		"WIZARD OF OZ"
1940	WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR	(HARLINE:WASHINGTON)		"PINOCCHIO"
1941	LAST TIME I SAW PARIS	(KERN:HAMMERSTEIN II)		"LADY BE GOOD"
1942	WHITE CHRISTMAS	(BERLIN)		"HOLIDAY INN"
1943	YOU'LL NEVER KNOW	(WARREN:GORDON)		"HELLO FRISCO HELLO"
1944	SWINGING ON A STAR	(VANHEUSEN:BURKE)		"GOING MY WAY"
1945	IT MIGHT AS WELL BE SPRING	(RODGERS:HAMMERSTEN II)		"STATE FAIR"
1946	ON THE ATCHESON TOPEKA AND SANTA FE	(WARREN:MERCER)		"THE HARVEY GIRLS"
1947	ZIP A DEE DOO DAH	(WRUBEL:GILBERT)		"SONG IN THE SOUTH"
1948	BUTTONS AND BOWS	(LIVINGSTON:EVEANS)		"PALEFACE"
1949	BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE	(LOESSER)		"NEPTUNES DAUGHTER"
1950	MONA LISA	(LIVINGSTON:EVANS)		"AFTER MIDNIGHT"
1951	IN THE COOL COOL COOL OF THE EVENING	(CARMICHAEL:MERCER)		"HERE COMES THE/
1952	HIGH NOON	(TIOMKIN)		"HIGH NOON" GROOM"
1953	SECRET LOVE	(FAIN:WEBSTER)		"CALAMITY JANE"
1954	THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN	(STYNE:CAHN)		"THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN"
1955	LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING	(FAIN WEBSTER)		FILM OF SAME NAME
1956	WHATEVER WILL BE WILL BE	(LIVINGSTON:EVANS)		"MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH"
1957	ALL THE WAY	(VAN HEUSON:BURKE)		"THE JOKER IS WILD"
1958	GIGI	(LEOWE:LERNER)		"GIGI"

Ken concludes AOMPAAS better known as "OSCAR"

You will notice the very high percentage of Bing songs that have recieved this coveted award, there is no point in my listing these as they are so well known.

----- Ken Mc Manus -----
We now present the finallistings of your own popular TOP TEN BING DISCS

Brian Jones, 23 Plas Rd, Fleur-de-lis, Pengdn, Mon, Wales.

- (1) My sweethearts the man in the Moon (2) My heart is taking lessons
(3) Moonlight Cocktail (4) Down the old ox road (5) Sweet Georgia Brown
(6) The one rose (7) Snuggled on your shoulder (8) Have I told you lately that I love you (9) Shine (10) Learn to croon.

Kathleen Golder, 110 Shell Rd, Lewisham, London SE11.

- (1) Silent Night (2) Brahms Lullaby (3) White Christmas (4) Straight down the middle (5) Sweet Leilani (6) Ya'll come (7) Folks who live on the hill
(8) Samantha (9) Country style (10) Where the blue of the night

Mary Hughes 84 Hartington Str, Moss Side, Manchester I4

- and as a complete contrast, Mary picks 10 songs SHE WOULD LIKE BING TO RECORD
"Chez Moi" "Body and soul" "Wonderful one" "All the things you are" "Getting sentimental" "I could write a book" "Blue tango" "There I've said it again"
"I love you and don't you forget it"

WE EXTEND A CORDIAL WELCOME TO THE CLUBS NEW MEMBERS WHOM WE HOPE WILL ENJOY MANY HAPPY YEARS WITHIN OUR INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE

Mr Bob Gibson, 59 Roker Ave, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

Mr C Smith, 3 Eden Villas, Edenbridge Kent

Mr Bill Seawright, 665 Moland Str, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

Mr Richard Sears, Apartado Aereo I4510, Bogota, Columbia.

Mrs Doreen Trurston, 12 Brixham Gdns, Ilford, Essex.

Mr A Dean, 28 Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle on Tyne 2.

"POT POURI" an assortment of members requests, and chit chat.

ELSIE KENNEDY wants to buy a copy of Bing's "GIRL OF MY DREAMS" and if you can help please write to Elsie at 15 Lowestoft Road, Watford, Herts.

PEN PAL WANTED. at home or abroad aged between 20-30 with hobbies like mine if possible-horse riding, - photography - country life - animals, and of course collecting records of (you know who) - I shall be pleased to hear from anyone male or female and my address is,- BRENDA SUTTON, FLIXTON RUN, NEAR LOWESTOFT.

FRANK GRANT will pay exceptionally good prices for the following books;-

- (1) The story of Bing Crosby by Ted Crosby
The World Publishing Co, Cleveland and New York. 1946
(2) "Bing" by Ted and Larry Crosby.
The Bolton Printing Co Inc - Mc Graw Hill Book Co Inc 1937
(3) "Crosby on record"
Published by Mello's Music, California 1950
(4) Dr J. T. H. Mize Book - Published 1946

If anyone can help, please write to Frank at CROWN HOTEL, STRATHAVON, SCOTLAND

Dear members,

Once again Christmas is very nearly upon us, time certainly does fly and firstly I would like to offer my apologies to those who wrote for discographical data. I mislaid the letters but I'm sure those concerned can recognise their requirements.

The recordings of "The thrill has gone" and "Life is just a bowl of cherries" a note I have from American Columbia dated May 29 1951 states as follows. There is no recording work sheet on file for either of the above two numbers, consequently an accurate recording date for these cannot be supplied. A card on these two numbers however indicates that both were recorded on Oct 25, 1931. This is the recording date I myself have taken for these two songs.

"A flight of fancy" and "Just for you" are matrix Numbers L6643A and L6644A respectively.

"Lovable" is matrix BVE43I45. The early version of "It must be true" is matrix PBVE6IO48 and "High Water" is CVE43I77.

The recordings of "Sweet Georgia Brown" "Waltzing in a dream" "Cabin in the cotton" "With summer coming on" "Some of these days" "Happy go lucky you" "Let's try again" "Love me tonight" --- I'm afraid I'm not able to give a definite matrix number prefix letter. American Columbia give me the letter C against four of the songs, and JC against the other four songs. A note about this says that only an examination of the actual master would reveal the true letters, also the recording work sheets made up at the time of recording show only the 8000 series matrix numbers to which the above eight songs belong.

Since I last wrote in Crosby Post I have been pleased to note that Bing has signed to do several recordings with Reprise Records. This organisation is a very go-ahead one and any Bing recordings they make will obviously be released here very soon after their U.S. release. Frank Sinatra has under his contract some of the best recording artists and Bing may link up with them on disc.

From the Crosby Office I learn that Bing will record for other companies as well as Reprise and therefore retains his free-lance-status;

"Project Records" of which Bing was part owner with Simon Rady has been sold to Capitol Records and it is my guess that Mr Rady has now taken up an appointment with Capitol and why Bing is going to tape two albums for them. This means also that Bing will still have the attention of his Music Director Bob Thompson.

A letter dated Oct 24 from Mr Hubert J Stone, Assistant General Manager of American Decca says; "Please be informed that our position regarding the release of Bing Crosby's CBS recordings is as formerly, i.e. negotiations are being pursued". Also, a recent letter I had from RCA in New York informs me that my request for two Bing tracks to be issued is being considered by those concerned with plans for future releases. These recordings are:- "Aloha means I love you" & "The new ashmolean marching society and students conservative band"

Les continues on page 22

I have been very fortunate to receive a very fine 10 X 8 glossy photo from Bing and Larry Crosby of the Platinum disc award. This photo is very impressive and Bing autographed it "To my good friend and co-part Leslie, Bing Crosby" - I feel very pleased indeed about this and a few days before I received it I had been informed by Mr Ray Coleman of the Melody Maker that whilst on the transatlantic phone discussing the signing with Reprise records Bing rang off saying "Please give my best to Michael Holliday and to Leslie Gaylor". I had been talking to Mr Coleman myself about the Reprise move as he had sent me a telegram requesting me to do so, and he himself certainly scored a good one by getting a scoop for Melody Maker by his personally phoning Bing after trying to contact him for two days.

I should like to add that I have been successful with negotiations with Derek Johnson of the New Musical Express and the most part of the Larry Crosby article "Biography of Bing Crosby" as recently featured in the Crosby Post will be published in the above papers suburb Christmas annual, a lush glossy book. There will be much no doubt about other stars, but to have Bing in this book and in a feature by his own brother is I personally think a very fine thing. Had I not sent Larry's article in I would have had my own contribution accepted.

I note that the Bing Crosby TV shows are now being produced for C.B.S. TV whereas previously they were made for ABC TV. It is to be hoped that the new series will be better produced, better sound recorded, and of better picture quality. However, being as they are of one hours duration I daresay the 'cutters' will be at work here if either of our two channels screen them.

I note that the two childrens story's "The Small One" and "The Happy Prince" have been issued for Christmas here and in order to make the tracks up "Adeste Fidelis" and "The sweetest story ever told" have been added. This album could have been improved by the using of two of Bing's best recordings of "White Christmas" and "Silent night" - the 1942 versions which have never been on microgroove records, and for the benefit of our members I wish Bing's recording of "The first snowfall" could be released here.

I have no further data yet on a Christmas LP to be made for the Motion Picture Relief Benefit Fund.

It was planned that Bing should comper the album called "My Favourite Story" which was to feature the favourite story's of 13 of America's top comedians including Jack Benny, Danny Thomas, Gene Kelly and George Burns.

I would like to say that I have sent in to Radio Luxemburg's "Listeners Request programme and asked for a Bing Christmas song for all members of the Crosby Society. The date I have asked for is Dec 4th and the fact that I have sent the request in on the back of a platinum disc photo may do the trick.

I note the tragic death of Michael Holliday has resulted in the loss of a fine singer and Honorary member of our Society. I feel sure my old friend Stan White who was so close to Mike has been sadly shaken.

I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating Bob Roberts for his fine "Bing's Hollywood " discography, also Ralph Harding and the other members for their excellent "Bing Discography" and not forgetting Frank Murphy for his fine "Crosby Posts" and Jack Manners and others for their fine efforts.

My best wishes for Christmas to all members, and a Happy New Year, - Les.

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For a number of excellent reasons (including a certain timeless ballad from the pen of Irving Berlin) the Christmas Season will always be closely and pleasantly associated with Bing. In deference to the widespread spirit of goodwill traditionally shown at this time of the year, I'll refrain (not without some effort) from commenting too pointedly on the contrast between the abysmal standards set by most of today's 'pop' performers and the qualitative blend of artistry and material so consistently displayed in Mr. C's vast recorded output. It is nevertheless a safe bet - and a comforting thought - that long after the names of many current 'stars' have been mercifully forgotten, Yuletides of the future will continue to be enriched by such evergreen items as Bing's "White Christmas", "Silent Night", "Adeste Fideles", and very many others.....About this time last year Crosby collectors everywhere were still happily reeling under the impact of DECCA/BRUNSWICK's wonderful 15 L.P. "Bing's Hollywood" set, a truly monumental reissue in every way and one that I fervently hope will remain in the catalogue as a permanent source of reference for the benefit and enlightenment of all who may be interested in the art of popular singing at its finest. Even at this late date I feel we should all freely acknowledge the tremendous effort that went into producing such a handsome and unique release, one quite without parallel anywhere. Nothing to compare with this has emerged during 1963 (it would be unreasonable to expect otherwise) but we can be grateful for a couple of interesting reissues from BRUNSWICK in recent months ("The Happy Prince"/"The Small One" LAT 8550 and "Merry Christmas" LAT 8556), plus the eagerly-awaited "I Wish You a Merry Christmas" L.P. (WM 8136) from WARNER BROS.....In extending to all members of the Society my best wishes for 1964, let me add the sincere hope that the year ahead may be notable for a total absence of international crises and the concomitant evils they create in terms of human suffering. On the positive side, let's look forward to many welcome Bing releases from our good friends at DECCA/BRUNSWICK. There are, of course, things to come from CAPITOL and REPRISE too.

On Saturday, 2nd November, a mobile radio van toured the streets of Liverpool in support of an appeal for funds by St. Mary's Youth Club, a local organization which is doing a great deal of useful work for many of the City's teenagers regardless of class, colour or creed. This was a very special occasion, however, for over the speakers of the van's P.A. system came the strains of the best-known recording of "The Bells of St. Mary's", followed by a spoken message recorded by Bing in Hollywood.....On the evening of the day in question I called to see the official of St. Mary's Youth Club and was pleased to discover that this worthy effort had proved a most resounding success; collection boxes were coming in for checking in impressive numbers, all of them healthily loaded with cash contributions from a responsive, Bing-influenced public!

As these notes were being compiled I learned, with deep regret, of the sudden death of Michael Holliday. This, therefore, would seem to be an appropriate place to pay brief tribute to Mike, who my wife and I first came to know during the 1940's when he was an avid collector of Crosby recordings and one of Bing's most ardent admirers. A one-time Honorary Member of this Society, Mike Holliday never made any secret of the fact that his own 'easy-on-the-ear' singing style was patterned closely - and affectionately - on that of his idol. It is sad indeed that, in mid-career and while still in his 'Thirties, Michael's life should have ended in such tragic circumstances.

Those who heard Ben Lyon's interesting, informal telephone 'interview' with Bing on "Movie-Go-Round" (B.B.C. Light Programme, 13th October) might like to know that I recently received a letter from Ben in which he writes "...Bebe and I have always loved Bing and have been proud of our friendship with him, which is of many years standing. He has not only contributed a great deal to a wonderful industry, but his domestic life has set a fine example", and concludes, "Do give Bebe's and my kindest regards to the members of the Crosby Society". Still another well-wisher is famous television and broadcasting personality Eamonn Andrews, who, in recent correspondence, has asked me to say that he wishes "continued success to The British Crosby Society".

YULETIDE QUIZ

A short but scholarly questionnaire set by 'Professor' Les Phythian who, despite mixing Too Much Harmony with his College Humor, nevertheless majored in Bingology back in those dear dead days beyond recall, when the word 'beat' merely described the condition of a mistreated 78 r.p.m. disc and the only 'Liverpool Sound' was the comparatively melodious one made by the hooters of ships as they plied their way along the Mersey.

(No prizes of any kind are offered, as it is felt that the profound nature of the six questions will in itself provide sufficient reward for diligent readers).

1. IF YOU WERE TO BE CAST AWAY ALONE ON A GRAMOPHONE RECORD, WHICH EIGHT DESERT ISLANDS WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE WITH YOU?
2. WHO IS ELVIS PRESLEY?
3. WHATEVER BECAME OF ROYSTON DURSLEY?
4. WHO THREW THE OVERALLS IN MRS. MURPHY'S CHOWDER? *
5. DOES BOB HOPE REALLY EXIST?
6. WHO WOULD YOU RATE THE BETTER VOCALIST, ARTHUR BEAUMONT OR OWEN CORNELL?

* Frank is automatically barred from answering this one, as he must be presumed to have inside information.

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Send your replies to the above quiz? direct to Les Phythian (his new address is on page 2) and we will print bestthree in the March edition of Crosby Post

"NEWSY CLIPPINGS"

DON WOOLLAND

snappily snipped out by

Dear Frank, re the recent news that Empire films had obtained the rights to screen some of the 'Road' films on TV - here is the reply I recatly had from them. It now looks as if emigrating is the only way to see the films.;

EMPIRE FILMS. JOHANNESBURG. SOUTH AFRICA. - 7 Nov- 1963

Thankyou for your interesting letter dated Nov 2nd, I do hope your Bing Crosby Society is gOUNg strongly. It is a great credit to a sometimes fickle public that Mr Crosby has kept his immense popularity for so many years, .I only wish he would make even more films, . So far as our probable re-issue of certain Bob Hope features is concerned we shall probably have our customary rights for Africa, South of the Equator and conswquently we shall not be in a postion to re-screen these films in Britain through medium of cinema or television.

with compliments; yours faithfully, Dan Draper
joint director of publicity

For this article I hope you will forgive me if I tend to get carried away - as I think HOAGLAND "HOAGY" CARMICHAEL is one of the really outstanding composers of the 30's and 40's.

I had the great pleasure of meeting Hoagy several years ago and if anyone thinks Bing is relaxed then you have to meet Hoagy to know what the word means. Although he appears to be almost asleep when you talk to him, but mention Bing, and he leaps to the piano to play and talk about that other relaxed character.

Before I go on I must mention how when I first met Hoagy he was, to all appearances doing a bit of YOGA. He cuts his own hair, and to see him do the back of his head is an education, that is if he doesn't fall asleep before he is finished.

Hoagy was born in Bloomington, Indiana on Nov 22, 1899. His mother played piano at the local cinema and needless to say Hoagy got some first class tuition. When he was sixteen the family moved to Indianapolis, when he met a negro musician named Reg Duval from whom Hoagy learned to play the kind of piano playing which is not in the book.

Like a lot of other musicians and composers Hoagy studied law which he intended to be his profession. During his student years Hoagy played piano with various local groups and composed several ragtime compositions.

He graduated in 1926. Before taking up his first job he offered "Washboard Blues" to Irving Mills, the publisher. This was a favourite with the great Miff Mole, trombone player with Red Nicholls Five Pennies. This was one of the many great jazz numbers to flow from the Carmichael pen and another was a tune called "Free Wheeling" later Hoagy changed the name to "Riverboat Shuffle" to be made famous as one of Bix Beiderbeck's great cornet solo and to be played by every band from the Wolverines to the spirited version by Muggsy Spanier and on to the Trad bands of 1960.

Hoagy was not content to sit back and write tunes and let other people play them - oh no - he sat in on many great recording session with Blind Willie Dunn's Gin Bottle Four of 1929 in the company of King Oliver, Eddie Lang and Lonnie Johnson, his session of 1929 in company with a gent named Louis Armstrong he did the never to be forgotten version of "Rockin Chair". He has played with them all, - Louis, BENNY Goodman, Bix, Oliver, Tommy Dorsey and Jimmy, and a host of others, each one a jazz man of great repute, which says somethings of Hoagy's talent at the keyboard.

But we are interested only in one aspect of Hoagy's life - his songs for Bing. Well, strange as it may seem one of Bing's favourites, was almost never written - That was the one and only "STARDUST"

This song was, in its original form a ragtime piano piece and was quite popular in 1929. Isham Jones recorded it and had some moderate success. It was Jim Dale the arranger who suggested to Hoagy in 1930 that he slowed the tempo down and to add some lyrics. This Hoagy did along with lyrics by Mitchell Parish and the "Stardust" road began.

In his autobiography Bing says "I'd have sang this song if I'd had to go on oxygen" - He made a fair job of it - it is still with us today - one of his truly great records.

, Ken continues on page 26

After this Hoagy churned out some really wonderful songs, "Rocking Chair", "The nearness of you", "Georgia", "I get along without you very well", "Lazybones", "Skylark" - they seem to be unending and apart from Bing a gent by the name of Hope earned quite a few bob with "Two sleepy people" along with Shirley Ross. Hoagy did 'nt stop at that though for he went on to make a terrific impact in a film with Humphrey Bogart called "To have or have not". In this film Hoagy played a real fine piano and sang the very weird "Hong Kong Blues" - great stuff. He even went on to appear in that Oscar winning film "The best years of our lives". Pressing on regardless he presented Bing with the award winning "In the cool cool of the evening" in 1951, though to my mind if Hoagy never wrote another song, he will be remembered for "Stardust" - Funny how lot's of Hoag's songs depicted himself "Lazybones", "Small Fry", "Two sleepy people", "Lazy River" a sleepy easy going fellow - and one of the best.....

KEN CONTINUES:

"Well this will be my last article for 1963 I would like to say how much I have enjoyed writing them and hope you have enjoyed reading them. So I will close and wish all my good friends of "Crosby Post" and members a very Happy Christmas and keep up the good work in the New Year....Keep Swinging....Ken Mc Manus.....

MICHAEL

HOLLIDAY.....

A

TRIBUTE.....

STAN

BY.....WHITE

The death of our honorary member Michael Holliday has left many members with the feeling of a personal loss. Mike died on Tuesday evening October 29th 1963. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

We are not concerned with the incidents which led up to this, sufficient to say that Mike had suffered a serious nervous illness for two years, this condition caught up with him from time to time, then came the last time.

Mike and Marge Holliday made many friends in the Crosby Society, Mike had met and visited quite a number of members personally. Through the Society he was able to find Bing's address and visit Bing himself in Hollywood, later he met Bing in London. Michael's friendly style of singing in the Crosby manner won him many admirers amongst people who enjoy the better class of popular music. Mike made no secret of the fact that he styled himself vocally on the King of Good Class of popular singers, Bing Crosby.

The records and tapes which Mike has left behind will keep alive the wonderful talent he was blessed with, and will be treasured by many people. After Mike and Marge returned from visiting Bing in Hollywood they presented the Society with a set of photos taken with Bing and these were some of the earliest photos to be made available from Photo Section.

Michael Holliday thought the world of Bing, even to the point where he made an LP called "From Mike to Bing". Bing thought a lot of Mike, so did Bob Hope who used Mike on one of his radio shows recorded in England. The Crosby Society also thought a lot of Mike and we feel his passing has struck a sad blow at the English popular music scene, and taken a real friend from us.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, son, his mother and the rest of his family and friends.

For a man who started with nothing and now could 'nt possibly estimate his wealth, Bing Crosby has an ironic attitude to work. "I'm a lazy man" he says. "I hate work of all kinds I hate schedules, anything that keeps me from golf, fishing, traveling, hunting, or the other things I like. "But if your so lazy" he was once asked, "why did 'nt you quit and go fishing once you'd made it?" "You've never got it made" he snapped "You never can stop. Do you walk out on responsibilities that have piled up around you, the people and the physical responsibilities that you accumulate? You can't do that" "Look at it this way: Success is a snowball that starts rolling at the top of a hill to you, getting bigger and bigger as it comes closer. You can't get out of the way even if you try. And before you know it, you're up to your ears in snow and can't get loose"

HE HAS A CHAIN OF BANKS TOO

Among the "physical responsibilities" snowing Bing under now, as if Bing Crosby Enterprises, Bing Crosby Productions (a rapidly expanding TV producing firm) the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team and the Los Angeles Rams football team were not enough, is a chain of banks in Arizona. Believe it or don't, Der Bingle is chairman of the board of the First Navajo National Banks of Holbrook, Kingman, Winslow, Window Rock, and Snowflake, Arizona.

Why the "Navajo" in the title? "The Navajo's trust Bing" Crosby's top business manager, Basil Grillo, explains. Grillo through almost 20 years that he has been associated with Bing has gotten the Old Groaner - he's 59 now - in and out of scores of ventures. They have included real estate and savings and loan associations as well as the Arizona Banks, broadcast properties, records, tape recording, radio and TV programmes and even a frozen orange juice franchise. Now he has formed Bing Crosby Productions which will have 8 or 10 new shows ready to go on TV by 1964, rivalling the output of the biggest independents in the business.

These shows include the already established "Ben Casey" and "Breaking Point" a new series of psychological dramas.

In addition Bing has signed a new deal to sing for Frank Sinatra's Reprise Records as well as to do 4 TV Spectaculars in one year. So it is safe to assume that the gold will continue to flow in for Grillo to invest.

But never at any point, any more than in the past, will Bing's pulse rate beat faster than a casual 70 per minute, regardless of the extent of his empire. The Groaner believes he inherited this from his late father Harry, who "just never believed in worrying" according to Bing.

He was a bookkeeper at the Inland Brewery in Tacoma, and his pay was never very high" says Bing. "He might not have been successful in business, by some peoples standards, but it never worried him, he was a wonderful happy guy" Bing, however does 'nt recommend the 'Just let it happen' to everyone.

"I don't think it's possible to try too hard to get what you want" he says, "The idea is to get it. . But if the only way you can get it is by trying hard, then you must try hard. If you just sat round and relaxed, you'd have to be very lucky to have what you're seeking come to you. "Of course there's a term used extensively in athletics. That's 'pressing' This affects hitters in baseball golfers, any competitors. By trying too hard, by 'pressing' timing and rhythm are lost. Perhaps the best policy is to be available and relaxed, but alert too. When an opportunity comes, turn on the power"

Continued on -age 28

How long would Bing keep on singing?

"I never had the kind of training opera singers have. They never abuse their vocal chords, so they're able to endure and sing until a ripe old age.

"IT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO OVERSTAY MY WELCOME"

"I don't sing properly, and there's no doubt that my throat and vocal chords have taken a beating. But with the kind of material singers of my type use it doesn't matter so much whether the voice is as good as it used to be, as long as you can make the notes. It's the mood the song creates that's effective. So I'll go on as long as there's an audience. Though I think it would be easy for me to overstay my welcome. But I'll never do that, I hope"

Does he enjoy the success and fame that have come from having sold more recordings than any other human in history?

"I'd be telling a lie if I said I didn't. I've been able to do things for people - my family, my friends, and maybe a few others - that I would have been able to do if success hadn't hit me. And besides that, when you're a success you live the good life.

Bing, his wife actress Kathy Grant and their three children, Harry 4, Mary Frances 3, and Nathaniel Patrick 2, live that good life.

'MRS SENIOR' REIGNS

There's the remote and restful fishing retreat, CASA CROSBY near Rancho Las Cruces on the southern tip of Baja California. There's no telephone at Casa Crosby and the only way you can get there is by plane. Another Crosby retreat is a ranch at Rising River in Northern California, just below the Oregon border, where Bing has Black Angus and Santa Gertrudis cattle and fine quarter horses and that's where he fishes in a trout stream and wears paid shirts and blue jeans around the rambling rustic one story ranch house.

In Palm Desert, the Crosby home where President Kennedy has stayed on two occasions is situated near 5 golf courses, a fact which, according to Kathy "keeps Bing's disposition smooth"

However the family spends most of it's time in the English manor-type house in Bel-Air surrounded by towering oak, elm and jacaranda trees, where Bing's mother Catherine Crosby, "Mrs Senior" reigns over the household at age 92.

The new Crosby kids don't realize how famous their father is, but when they hear one of his records they say "That's Daddy"

Kathy has become a nurse, Bing approved the idea " keeps her from moving the furniture around the house all the time" and now that she's graduated, he says "in his relaxed way "I guess she's got the call" THE END

Frank Murphy writes

Having just prepared this page of Crosby Post for printing, I should record the date which is November 25th - and it's ironic that the fine article from US member Eddie Rice should mention that President Kennedy twice used Bing's Palm Springs home, for as I type this piece British television is covering the sad scene in America as the late President is laid to rest. May we then add our small tribute to this great man whom our own Bing knew as a personal friend. and to add further grief to this piece a letter recieved from Eddie and dated October 28th states that BingsMother is in hospital seriously ill and not expected to live - we'll bring you more news if it becomes available and meanwhile we send our love and sincere good wishes to "Mrs Senior"

*
* Here's a feature making a welcome re-appearance: In the chair;-
* Frank Murphy
* "THE GROANER IN THE GROOVE" a review of all the new
* record releases "Crosby style"

Hello fellow Collectors,

and first let me say what a great pleasure it is to have the pleasure of reviewing some new discs from the maestro. We have three albums, an EP and two singles, what a feast for Christmas, there should be no problems in deciding what we want for presents this year, so now to the new issues..

"I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS" Warner Bros WM8136 - 12" Album

Side One

1. Winter Wonderland
2. Have yourself a Merry little Christmas
3. What child is this
The holly and the Ivy
4. The little drummer boy
5. O Holy Night

Side Two

1. The littlest Angel
2. Let it snow, let it show, let it snow
3. Hark the herald Angels sing
4. Frosty the snowman
5. Pat a Pan--While shepherds watch
6. I wish you a Merry Christmas.

members who attended the meeting at Jack's last July were of one accord when he played this album for us (American release) we all agreed it was great and our thanks go to British Decca for releasing it this Christmas, it's a great album which more than proves Bing is still capable of doing great things in the record studios. My favourites are his delightful interpretation of O HOLY NIGHT this is a real gem, Bing has never sounded more sincere on a song of this type. Listen carefully also to the second song on track three, side two IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR (missed out above) and WHAT CHILD IS THIS which is done in this case to the delightful music of Greensleeves.

You can take it from me that this album is one you can't miss; it's full of vintage and great Bing;-

"DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR/CHRISTMAS DINNER COUNTRY STYLE" Capitol CLI5326 - 7"single

This surprise single came out of the blue and it was a pleasure to hear it for the first time on San Costa's midday BBC record show on Nov 25, San expressed the hope we'd hear much more of this title and described Bing as "the Peter Pan of the record business"

The top side is real great Bing and is somewhat reminiscent of "My own individual Star" and I found it very attractive. Bing is in strong voice and you can really hear him giving out in great style. Must confess I had expected bigger things from "Christmas dinner Country style" which in no way measures up to those great Crosby numbers in the same vein "Ya'll Come" and "Country Style" and the blame is 'nt entirely Bing's. The chorus and orchestra fails to give the warm atmosphere so necessary to a number of this type. Let's just say it's good but could have been much improved upon. I hope the forthcoming album of country and western numbers from Capitol has better musical backing and arrangements than this..

"HOLIDAY IN EUROPE" Brunswick OE9504 - 7" extended play (EP)

Side One. "Morgan" "Under Paris Skies"

Side Two. "Domenica" "Melancolie"

This EP, carries four top tracks from the last Years issue on 12" album of the same name and if you weren't able to purchase this then you'll find this EP of handy proportions. "Domenica" is the standout vocal with Bing in really powerful voice, you'll like the others too and "Melancolie" is a fine closure.

continued overleaf

"TWO FAVOURITE STORIES BY BING CROSBY" Brunswick LAT8550 - 12" Album

Side One

A Christmas story "THE SMALL ONE" by Charles Tazewell
and "ADESTE FIDELES" orchestra directed by John Scott Trotter

Side Two

An Oscar Wilde Fairy Story "THE HAPPY PRINCE"
and "THE SWEETEST STORY EVER TOLD" with Ethel Smith and Lehman Engel's Orch'.

With a really attractive cover, this album is a real delight and for the first time brings two of Bing's best known narrations together. I find "The Small One" a really compelling Christmas story, full of pathos and human drama and the end is particularly nostalgic. The moment when Joseph tells little Pablo that he will take good care of The Small One very moving and when narrator Bing closes the side with some very sincere words makes this a real gem. "THE HAPPY PRINCE" is a little too far fetched to appeal to older listeners but for the little ones, the younger members of the family, they will find it very interesting. On this story Bing is joined by Orson Welles and together they make a great team.

"THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED"/FUGUE FOR TINHORNs Reprise R20217 - 7" single featuring Bing with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin

With much advance publicity and a great cover pic of the three 'greats' this single promised to be a real treat but alas, it's not so. I never thought I'd see the day that Bing would be associated with records lasting just over a minute, but this is it. The top side, to give it its full title "The oldest established permanent floating crap game in New York" is an attractive enough opus and the 'big three' are in great tune with each other and give us some really great harmony, this one will grow on you. The flip side "Fugue For Tinhorns" is a complete waste of time - how three stars of the calibre of Der Bingle, Frankie and The Dean could get themselves associated with drivel like this is beyond me; Please 'big three' NO MORE LIKE THIS.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" Brunswick LAT8556 - 12" album

Side One;

1. Silent Night
2. Adeste Fidelis
3. White Christmas
4. God rest ye merry Gentlemen
5. Faith of our fathers
6. I'll be home for Christmas

Side Two;

1. Jingle bells
2. Santa Claus is coming to town
3. Silver bells
4. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
5. Christmas in Killarney
6. Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas)

In his review of this album in the "Viewer" recently, Jack Jackson headlined his piece CROSBY VERSUS CROSBY and compared this with the other Christmas album from Bing "I Wish You A Merry Christmas" - Jack said it would be interesting to see which album raked in the most sales and I agree, for despite the fact that this album is comprised of re-issues I reckon it stands a great chance of overtaking the new Warner disc - This Brunswick album boasts a super cover and showcases some of Bing's greatest triumphs, including four of his million sellers including the over "20 MILLIONS" "WHITE CHRISTMAS" and isn't "Mele Kalikimaka" a delightful little number.

I hope you enjoy all the new issues and here's looking forward to 1964 and the great treats in store....till then, keep them spinning....frank.

BING CROSBY HOLLYWOOD OCTOBER 11, 1963

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your very nice letter. So pleased to know that through the years you've found some amusement and entertainment out of my records, etc., and am glad also to learn that you're associated with my good friend Frank Murphy of the British Bing Crosby Society.

I certainly hope the next time that I'm in England we're able to arrange a meeting. I'm sure it will be quite easy to do.

The club meeting at Jack Manners home sounded, according to description, like a very pleasant occasion.

At the moment I'm rehearsing with Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra for a picture to start the end of the month. Sammy Davis is also in the film.

Have just finished taping a television show with Caterina Valente, Buddy Ebsen Andre Previn and others, and have one to tape the end of the month with Bob Hope, my wife Kathryn, and Rosemary Clooney. John Scott Trotter is going to be the conductor and arranger for this particular show.

It will be nice being associated with him again and we shall possibly use a couple of the things that he and I collaborated on some years back with such success.

Thank you for sending me the two pictures from "Sing You Sinners" and LOOK magazine.

Closing now, with best regards to you and your family, and to the other club members you may encounter in the immediate future -

All best regards,

signed BING

BC:In

P.S. Sending a picture - one of a new series taken recently at the CBS television network.

CROSBY POST

INTERVIEWS..... ANNE SHELTON..... at La Dolcia Vita
Newcastle on Tyne

It was the great pleasure recently of four club members having the very great honour of meeting personally that outstanding British personality Miss Anne Shelton. Anne was paying one of her rare night club visits to Newcastle and present on the final night of a very successful week were representatives of TBCS, Larry Rowe, Bill Bell, John Maughan and Frank Murphy and after watching Anne give her usual matchless performance which included a terrific closure medley from "Annie Get Your Gun" and by special arrangement we four had the pleasure of talking to Anne in her dressing room during which to our great amusement Anne recalled Bing's wartime visit and the duet she sang with him at the Stage Door canteen. Before they went on stage Bing said to Anne "I bet you two bob I can kiss you without touching you" Anne accepted, whereupon Bing delivered a normal 'pucker' "But you touched me" protested Anne

continued over

"Well, there's your two bob" replied the poker faced Bing. And Anne told us "I've still got that two bob today"

Anne proved to be a great admirer of Der Bingle and our interview was a really friendly discussion which dwelled mainly on our mutual admiration for Bing, and before leaving Anne asked us to convey her very best wishes to all the members of "Bing's club" and promised to put us in touch with her own club. It was therefore a great pleasure to hear later from Anne's club and we are forming a very friendly association with THE INTERNATIONAL ANNE SHELTON FAN CLUB, and exchange of adverts in each others magazines and other helpful ideas which will lead to a useful promotion of useful ideas. So if you'd like any further information on Anne's club will you write to KATHLEEN JUDKINS 74, Beverley Road, Whyteleafe, SURREY and Kathleen (a hospital Sister) will give you full information as required.

AUCTION/MART offers some of those elusive 'Bing's'

Offers invited by Edward Brunell, 587 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex. post free on over £1. G=Good; V=very good; E=excellent; N=New;

CLI476I Man on fire/Seven nights a week-V
 Rex8957 Home on the range/Blue prelude-V
 Col 1802 Please/Love in bloom-E
 Col4950 Evening star/Whitman orchestra-E
 495I Constantinople/Get out get under the Moon-V
 498I Chiquita/Taint so honey taint so-G
 5240 Rhythm king/My suppressed desire-V
 5457 Louise/The bluebirds and the blackbirds-E
 HMV5366 My blue heaven/RW Kahn orchestra-V
 547I Ol man river/Make believe-V
 547I "same" rin chip, vocal not affected-V
 5504 My pet/Nat Shikret orch -G

Brunswicks

I404 Soneday we'll meet again/Lets put out the lights-G
 OI503 You've got me crying again/What do I care it's home-G
 OI596 Black moonlight/Tahnks (light scratches-G
 OI608 Last roundup/Home on the range-G
 OI700 Lets spend an evening at home/Did you ever see a dream walking-G
 OI850 Love in bloom/Straight from the shoulder-V
 O2443 Sweet Leilani/In a little hula heaven-(picture label-G
 O2810 God bless America/Star splangled banner-E
 O3300 You are my sunshine/Day dreaming-V
 O3312 Miss You/Mandy is two-E
 O3528 San fernando valley/Ridin down the canyon-E
 O3569 Accentuate the positivc/Theres a fellow waiting in Poughkeepsie-G
 O3650 On the Atcheson Topica/I'd rather be me-E
 O4016 Kokomo Indiana/Ain't doing bad doing nothin-N
 O4970 Just a little lovin/Till the end of the world-E
 O5104 If I were a bell/I've never been in love before-E
 O5172 Sonthing wonderful/Hello young lovers-N
 O5501 Let's harmonize/Sleigh bell serenade-N
 O5674 Around the world/Victor Young orchestra-E

Time to sign off folks, be back in March with our bumper 15th anniversary number of Crosby Post-we'll be looking out, hope you'll be looking in.....

When you read Pat's American Newsletter on page 12 of the enclosed Post you will find reference to Al Carter and his undertaking with Bing's record of "The old Santa Fe Trail" - you will therefore be pleased to know that Larry Crosby has very kindly sent us the actual record that Al used on this trip. This together with a number of extremely interesting clippings on the trip is housed in the club's "Crosby Room" at Frank Murphy's home. Here is Larry's letter.

BING CROSBY

HOLLYWOOD

November 11, 1963

Dear Frank,

Herewith some news clips on a gaunt a fellow made involving use of Bing's recording of "Santa Fe Trail"

We are sending this actual record he used to you, believing club members would be most interested.

Best wishes,

Signed LARRY

LC:vs

Our sincere thanks to Larry for his kind thought in sending us such a unique trophy and for the further interest of members we have written to Al Carter asking him to send a full story on his eventful trip for inclusion in the next Crosby Post

CLUB *
MEETINGS * MARCH 1964 - On this date the British Crosby Society will celebrate its Fifteenth Anniversary and to commemorate this great occasion we plan two club meetings to which the members throughout the country are invited. The first meeting will be held at the home of Frank Murphy on Sunday April 5th. The second meeting will be held at the home of Jack Manners on Sunday September 27th. There will be fuller information on both meetings in the next Post and this interim note is intended to give members notice of the dates so that they will not affect their holiday arrangements.

The correct name of 'Ed' in Auction/Mart is Edward Burnell and Ed also asks us to mention that he still needs about 250 Bing records and he would like to hear from anyone with discs to sell.

Wonder what changed the mind of DJ come pop singer Jimmy Young recently for in Melody Maker he said the nicest things about Bing's Capitol single DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR - "Said Jimmy, "Bing of course, a beautiful sound - great" and then he turned up on Juke Box Jury a couple of nights later and said the same disc was "terrible" - Although asked too, MM have not yet printed your editors complaint Would like to know if anyother members wrote in about this?

How nice to read the comments of new USA member BILL HARTER who writes;
"Here in the United States Bing is somewhat a national institution. More than any other entertainer he has had a profound influence throughout this country in stimulating the ambitions of younger singers to limitless possibilities in the world of music. Bing holds first place in the world of music and in the hearts of music lovers throughout the world, and deservedly so....."

DON WOOLLAND sned in a couple of news-items of interest;

In the September issue of the American magazine Screen Stories is the following:-
"Bing Crosby, tired of the all too-sexy movies being made in town offered to star in one for Walt Disney called "Erasmus without Freckles" If Bing does with one I hope they have a title change.

In the November issue of the same mag is another piece about Bing; "That fuss about Bing Crosby refusing to do "Devil's Advocate" boiled down to this, Bing did'nt like the director picked for him at Warners. And that's why Gregory Peck is donning that cassock and surplice to play the priest.

Just received to late for the Christmas Post and too lengthy for the supplement was a fine article obtained for us by the great efforts of KATHLEEN GOLDER. Kathleen heard a great interview between Bing and Ben Lyon on BBC Movie-go-Round recently and promptly wrote in to find out what she could for the club. Kathy came up with a great transcribed version of the interview for Crosby Post and this will be one of the highlights of the March issue - meanwhile here is the nice letter Kathy recieved from Ben Lyon.

Dear Mrs Golder,

Thankyou for your note, and am so happy you enjoyed the broadcast. Needless to say I loved talking to Bing as he is a very dear friend of ours,.

With every good wish

Signed BEN LYON

MEMBERS ADVERT:

What offers for a brand new copy of Bing and Rosemary Clooney's album FANCE MEETING YOU HERE" on the Spanish RCA label.

Have also got quite a number of 10" and 12" LP's, EP's and a considerable number of 78's for sale, allof BING.

PLEASE WRITE TO Alan H Lurie, 22 St James Road, SALFORD 7, Lancs

We wish to record our deep appreciation to the following members for their kind and much appreciated donations to club funds;-

John Coombs 10/-; Joe Hall 5/-; Ron Chaplin 4/6; Mary Hughes 4/6; Betty Hale 2/6
Ron Bosley 5/- Joan and Alan Taylor 4/6 and Elsie Kennedy 4/6

FRANK MURPHY WRITES

Pages 38, 39 and 40 , of this supplement you will find comments pertaining to the discography issued with the last edition of Crosby Post - I wish to make it known that these pages appear without my blessing or approval - this sour note marrs the Christmas Post and I wish I had been able to refuse the request made by Derek Parkes for space to air his complaints. But now the whole affair becomes public and I have asked the other Co-authors to reply to Derek's critisism. I sincerely hope this won't marr your Christmas reading .

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY proudly announces its latest publication THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY (THE "V"-DISC SUPPLEMENT) is now ready for distribution.

The hundred odd readers, collectors and Crosbyana enthusiasts in the U.K. and all over the world who have received THE CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY will have no need to be told what to expect when we say that it is up to the same standard we have reached with our first publication. Like the first limited edition it is solidly bound in BLUE & GOLD (Bing's racing colours ... but need I remind you of the colour association?) and printed in the same faultless manner on quarto paper. The front cover is identical to the first discography to keep it in the ROAD TO BING CROSBY series of publications and consists of a truly professional etching of BING and includes other illustrations which include a perfect reproduction of a rare "V"-disc label.

Full details of every known "V"-Disc are given which feature BING including a cross-index of titles, master numbers, sources, accompanying artists and Orchestras and much important detail about "V"-Discs in general. Needless to say that this book is an essential for the true collector of Crosbyana and a useful source of information to everyone with the slightest interest in Bing Crosby (which surely covers all of us)

The special preface written especially by BING himself with his interesting comments on his War-time recording activities is well worth the ridiculous price we are charging. As in the case of THE CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY ALL GROSS PROFITS are going to THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY and like our other publications this has been a labour of love ... for the benefit of us all.

No collector of BING CROSBY data or records can afford to be without this book. Remember there are only 150 copies and first come, first served. THIS WILL NOT BE REPRINTED OR REPEATED!!

SEND FOR YOUR COPY NOW Send Postal Order, Money Order, Cheque, Cash, Conch-Shell (South Sea Islanders please note) Yen, dollars or roubles to :- FRANK MURPHY, BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY, 45, Ferndale Ave, Wallsend Northumberland, England. Copies will be posted by RALPH HARDING as before but send remittances as directed.

"WE ARE SO CONFIDENT ABOUT THIS DISCOGRAPHY THAT WE WILL REFUND UNCONDITIONALLY TO ANYONE RETURNING THEIR COPY INTACT" ... we said this before and we say it again. SEND 3/- (THREE SHILLINGS POST FREE)

THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY (THE CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY)

This publication met with terrific response. Within three weeks a 100 copies were sold. The copy sent to BING brought his short and pithy reply, Dear Fred, You and your co-authors have done a real fine job on the record book and we appreciate it. Please thank the fellows and give your wives a squeeze for me. Sincerely, BING.

At the time of going to press, the BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY has been a complete sell-out (with the exception of a few copies reserved for New Members) and as it will not be re-printed again, further applications for a copy cannot be considered.

On the 30th September, 1963, the Crosby Society published a Bing Crosby discography covering all commercial recordings up to July, 1934. This publication carried the title 'The Road to Bing Crosby' which has for many years been associated with my name. It is without doubt the finest Crosby discography in print covering this period and I am certain that to many this discography will be a book of reference. Many people have spent many years probing into the many mysteries of these early recordings and it is a bitter disappointment to me that I find it necessary to criticise this publication. My qualifications for doing so are the last eight or nine years of concentrated work that I have contributed towards the building of 'The Road to Bing Crosby'.

My main reason for writing this article is to absolve myself from the editorial which, in my opinion, is extremely misleading and inaccurate in places. I wish to emphasize that I had nothing whatsoever to do with the production of the first six and a half pages. In fact, in common with one other editor, I knew nothing of this publication until after it was printed!!! The Foreword wrongly infers that this work is mainly an all British effort whereas we have received a tremendous amount of help from abroad - especially from two or three collectors in Australia and America who have contributed far more than some of those who have received special mention in this publication. This, and other aspects which are best left unmentioned, so disturbed me that I offered to finance and to undertake the reprinting of the offending pages - subject to discussions on the matter. At the time, the publication had not been bound and the additional work would have caused a not unreasonable delay of about one week. The discography was bound without further discussion and it was published in its original form against my wishes. This is but one of the several serious violations of the mutual trust that should exist amongst co-authors and it is certainly not conducive to the full cooperation that is so essential in a work of this nature.

Many people have spent many years producing this discography. Surely a little more time could have been taken to include the additional information in its correct place - most of it was known before the printing was undertaken. Surely it was worthy of a little extra care to avoid the many errors - some of which have remained uncorrected. Surely an effort could have been made to ensure that the English used was not ambiguous. Surely we could have had an unbiased representation of those who have contributed to this great work - and surely there was room for more cooperation in its production.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Frank for allowing me space in the Crosby Post. I should also like to convey Seasonal Greetings to my many friends throughout the world.

Fred Reynolds comments on Derek Parke's statement

The discography was originally prepared for serial issue in the "Vintage Jazz Mart" magazine and was the collective effort of four co-authors with information gathered from various sources. In common with Derek I knew nothing of its being printed for publication by the "Post" until after the event. I must therefore refute responsibility for any inaccuracies in the foreward and pre-amble.

Unlike Derek, however, I accepted under certain conditions and not without some misgivings the reasons for the unorthodox manner in which the discog was presented and the undue prominence given to one of the co-authors as I wished to see a continuance of the work and of the partnership.

Bob Roberts has no comment to make in Crosby Post on this subject.

A reply to the comments by Derek C. Parkes on "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY"

By Ralph S. Harding

Before the distribution of the ROAD TO BING CROSBY (THE BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY) a copy of the sheets run off from the cut stencils was submitted to all the joint authors which of course included Derek Parkes. This pre-view copy was the first intimation that such a project was near completion. Previously the team had discussed the issue of a full and comprehensive discography for members of the POST and this idea had been squashed and vetoed due in the main to the fact that as a team we had neither the time nor the facilities for producing such a discography and also we had far too much work in hand to attempt such a scheme. At that time the Co-Authors were engaged in producing the discography for THE VINTAGE JAZZ MART albeit painfully slowly but nevertheless as accurately as possible. At a meeting of Bing enthusiasts, your Editor Frank Murphy persuaded me to try to produce a discography for the members of the BING SOCIETY pointing out that this was a much requested need and something that had been the subject of innumerable requests for some considerable time. After a considerable amount of persuasion I said I would consider undertaking the work on condition that (1) All profits made from the sale of such a discography would be used exclusively for the CROSBY SOCIETY and the CROSBY POST (2) That such a project should be kept on a confidential basis and not advertised prior to being in a position of publication in case I found the task too much for me and I wouldn't be in a position to undertake this task, thus causing disappointment to Society members.

Thus when the run-off sheets were submitted to my Co-Authors, it came as a surprise to them. In the case of Bob Roberts it appeared to be a pleasant surprise and he was full of enthusiasm for the whole project. Fred Reynolds was also full of admiration for a job well done but nevertheless expressed his feelings that such a project should have been kept secret, that such a task should have been undertaken without the full knowledge of the remainder of the team. Nevertheless these objections apart Fred Reynolds shared the general enthusiasm of the production of this discography.

Unfortunately this enthusiasm was not shared by Derek Parkes. On the contrary he actively endeavoured to with-hold publication. Primarily his objections were confined to the Foreword although now I see that he now criticises the whole work by saying that "it was worthy of a little extra care to avoid the many errors" and "The English used was ambiguous" and so on ad infinitum. This is rather contrary to his opening statement "It is without doubt the finest Crosby discography in print covering this period ..." (and on this statement I will agree with him)

But referring to the Foreword to which Derek describes as misleading and inaccurate. Before distribution, on two occasions I wrote to him and asked him to submit material to amplify and add to or amend the foreword as printed. This he declined to do and so my intention to include his comments and coorections etc was denied by him.

But let us examine the foreword. It consists of an article first published in VINTAGE JAZZ MART announcing my intention of publishing a BING CROSBY discography for the VJM. This article was published in JULY 1961 before Derek Parkes collaborated with me in producing this discography and in fact it was this article which prompted Derek to write to me offering his services.

In fact to quote from his letter to me after that Foreword appeared in the VJM ... "I was very interested to read in this month's Palaver (VJM) that you are finally getting the Bing discog into print. I've been eagerly awaiting this ever since I heard a few months ago that you were again working on it with a view to publishing it. I have been requested to continue the discog but in view of your efforts I have declined - especially as the basis of the discog came from you in the first place..... if you would like me to help at all, I'm quite willing to have a look at the proofs ... you are welcome to any additional information I can supply."

Naturally I was delighted that Derek should offer his assistance (I have always had great admiration for his discographical work) and therefore I invited him to be co-author. After working together very amicably for many months we neared the end of the Whiteman period when Bob Roberts and Fred Reynolds (both who had actively helped) were invited to become co-authors thus forming a team of four. Our method was simple. I typed out in full the discographical sheets, posted copies to the three team members and they added whatever information they had on hand. The sheets were returned and I re-typed fresh sheets for publication, collating and incorporating all the information received from the team and from any other sources.

Therefore the whole of the information contained in the ROAD TO BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY has been scrutinized and passed by Derek Parkes. In fact to state that it contains "many errors" and "ambiguous English" is not only a completely false statement but criticises the work done by Fred, Bob, myself and Derek who was fully aware of the information there-in. Furthermore this discography was checked by Les Phythian (a solicitor with an admirable command of the Queen's English) who vetted it for spelling errors grammar and ambiguity. Many well-known American discographers have expressed admiration as to its accuracy and the information supplied.

In producing this discography, I gave full credit to all the people concerned in supplying information, namely my co-authors. Extra credit was given to LES PHYTHIAN for his proof checking efforts, extra information supplied by BOB ROBERTS, FRED REYNOLDS and DEREK PARKES and also to CHARLES WAREING who supplied completely new information on the Whiteman period. It was on the suggestion of co-author Fred Reynolds that this was done and I personally am in full agreement. I also state that our thanks are due to all collectors from all over the world for supplying fresh information. I have had such a large amount of information over the years from so many collectors that it would be impossible to list them all. I have stated this but still have expressed my grateful thanks on behalf of all the co-authors. Therefore Derek Parkes' statement "Surely we could have had an unbiased representation of those who have co-operated/contributed to this great work" is right out of place.

I don't intend to go on further ... there is far more that could be said but enough unpleasantries have been passed by Derek, not only to myself but to your Editor Frank Murphy. I would like to point out that every effort was made to avoid making these differences public and the other co-authors and the Editor tried to dissuade Derek from continuing these statements. However as a member of the Post he is perfectly entitled to express his opinions and I am grateful to Frank Murphy for requesting me to answer these allegations and allowing me the space to do so. I would like to emphasise that although I consider Derek's remarks to be misguided and unnecessary, and certainly not factual, he has made them in good faith as his opinion. And he has every right to express his opinion.



With great wealth, charm and ambition, there is no telling how far the new Crosby dynasty will go. Already, with her nursing career and charity work, Kathryn is becoming known as a "stateswoman" in Hollywood. If the Kennedys, Rockefellers and Kellys can produce Presidential candidates and a princess, maybe the Crosbys will too.





With
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
and all Good Wishes
for the
NEW YEAR